

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have canceled Claims 1-3, 5, and 6. Applicants have amended Claim 4 to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 5. Accordingly, support for amended Claim 4 can be found in Claims 4 and 5, as originally filed.

Applicants have also added new Claims 7-21. Support for new Claims 7 and 8 can be found in Claims 1 and 2, as originally filed. Support for new Claims 9 and 10 can be found on page 8, lines 23-25, of the specification. Support for new Claims 11-12 can be found on page 9, lines 19-21, of the specification. Support for new Claim 13 can be found on page 9, lines 9-11, of the specification. Support for new Claims 14-16 can be found on page 9, lines 22-25, of the specification. Support for new Claims 17-19 can be found on page 10, lines 21-26, of the specification. Support for new Claims 20 and 21 can be found on page 11, lines 1-7, of the specification.

No new matter has been added. Claims 4 and 7-21 are active in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Sample for indicating that Claim 5 was merely objected to as depending on a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendment, all of the pending claims are now allowable.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), in view of JP 2001-261353 (JP '353) and the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), in view of JP 05-017122 (JP '122) have been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claims 1-3 and 6 have been canceled. Moreover, Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 5. Applicants submit that amended Claim 4 is

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patentable over the cited references for the same reasons that Claim 5 was not rejected in view of these references.

Applicants have also added new Claims 7-21, all of which depend from Claim 4. Applicants submit that Claims 7-21 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 4 is allowable.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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